

III. REMARKS; ELECTION OF SPECIES:

The Examiner has required the Assignee elect a single disclosed species of each of the two groups for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Assignee, after review of the Examiner's election of species requirement, hereby elects for further prosecution in the present application the claims of Species II(a) and II(b). The claims that are readable on these elected species are 36-61 and 121 (Species II(a)) and claim 99 (Species II(b)). The Assignee has withdrawn claims of Species I(a) (claims 14, 28-35 and 120), and those of Species I(b) (claims 86-89), III(b) (claim 101) and IV(b) (claims 102 and 103).

The Assignee has made this election to expedite consideration of elected claims in this application without waiving the right to add dependent claims during prosecution or to file other applications such as continuations, divisions, or continuations-in-part.

Assignee has prepared a set of claim amendments (see Section III, immediately below) in accordance with revised 37 C.F.R. 1.121 in which certain claims are withdrawn herein (claims indicated as canceled were canceled earlier, in a preliminary amendment). Assignee notes that claim status indications of "withdrawn" in parentheses indicate that the referenced claim is being withdrawn without prejudice in response to this election of species requirement, and that claim status indications of "canceled" in parentheses indicate that the referenced claim is being cancelled without prejudice.

IV. CONCLUSION:

The Assignee has elected for examination Species II(a) (claims 36-61 and 121) and Species II(b) (claim 99). The Assignee requests entry of the amendments and examination of the claims. An allowance is requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Dated this 30th day of June, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,
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